The inventory variation has also been given effect to in the accounts of the Company for the year 2002-2003 as well as reported in the Annual Report.

Entry of Private Companies in retailing

2275. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of private oil companies which have been given authorisation for the setting up of retail outlets for petrol;

(b) the number of retail outlets which have been set up by each of those companies; and

(c) whether ONGC has also been allowed to set up retail outlets and if so, the details thereof including the number of such outlets set up so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Government have granted authorisation for marketing the transportation fuel to two private companies namely; M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL). In addition, in principle approval has been given to M/s. Shell India Pvt. Ltd., subject to fulfilment of conditions.

(b) M/s. EOL has commissioned three Retail Outlets (ROs) whereas M/s. RIL has not commissioned any RO, so far.

(c) Oil an Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has been allowed to set up 1,100 ROs but has not set up any RO, so far.

Major helicopter accidents involving ONGC

2276. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major helicopter accidents involving the staff of ONGC which took place during the last three years;

(b) the number of casualties in each accidents alongwith the details of compensation given to the next of the kin of the victims; and

(c) the main causes of those crashes and the remedial steps taken to avoid the recurrence of such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) There have been three accidents of helicopters chartered by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) during the last three years. These were on 2.2.2002, 7.5.2002 and 11.8.2003, the last one being a major one. In the earlier two accidents, there was no casualty and no compensation was paid by ONGC. 20 employees of ONGC, 3 employees of contractors and 4 crew members died in the accident that took place in Mumbai Offshore on 11.8.2003. The details of compensation given to next of the kin of the victims are given in the statement attached. Besides, dependants of 16 out of 20 employees of ONGC, who died in the accident, were also given offers of appointment by ONGC, who died in the accident, were also given offers of appointment by ONGC. The families of remaining four deceased have been given letter of intent by ONGC for pursuing employment because their next of kin were underaged.

(c) Investigation into the cause of accidents is a statutory function of Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under the Aircraft Act and Rules framed thereunder, ONGC has informed that DGCA had observed that misjudgment by the pilot was the main cause of accident on 2.2.2002. ONGC has further informed that the outcome of the investigations by DGCA of the causes of accidents held on 7.5.2002 and 11.8.2003 is awaited. The Government have set up an Independent three member Inquiry Committee to look into, *inter alia*, the aspects of Safety and Security of lives in offshore operations, especially air logistics and inspection mechanism; hiring of helicopters, especially MI-172 helicopters, including the circumstances under which the ill-fated helicopter was hired, etc. An Interim Report has been received from the Committee, and the final report is awaited.

Statement

Payments made to the nominees of the Dependent of Deceased of ONGC who died in Crash of Helicopter on 11.08.2003

Sl. No.	Name of Deceased employee	Total Compensation payment made (IN RUPEES)
01.	Akshay Mathias SE(D)	50,29,066
02.	T.K. Sarkar SE(E)	53,60,352
03.	A.K. Das Dy. SE(M)	45,32,367
04.	B. Sahay Dy SE(E)	46,56,995
05.	Ajoy Sinha Dy SE(M)	44,67,536
06.	V.K. Dabholkar JT(M)	31,95,981
07.	K.H. Pailarkar R/A-I	31,07,033
08.	S.R. Roy SC	48,37,300
09.	C.M. Naithani DSE(C)	55,54,499
10.	R.P. Biswas SE(D)	50,91,299
11.	D.V. Sawant JT(M)	30,13,907
12.	A.K. Singh SE(D)	48,06,868
13.	A.J. Mhatre AGI(MM)	32,22,956
14.	H.B. Pokale R/A-II	30 87,412
15.	S.H. Dangle Topman	32,27,322
16	S.D Kodag DGM(M)	61,56,913
17	R.M. Murthy AEE(D)	36,49,742
18	D J Jani Dy SE(M)	48,80,766
19	S.K. Day	20,02,810
20	J.J. Vorkey	45,20,881